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Fortunately for Lebanon, the eruption of this crisis occurred while the U.S. was playing the role of "world policeman." In 1958, the U.S. had unchallenged military predominance and the will to use it. The Marines landed, the situation was well in hand, the worst casualties were in fights over girls, and the Lebanese were so impressed and so chastened that they postponed the reckoning for 17 years. Some politicians and journalists have wondered what superiority is good for—they

groups "senseless killing" goes on.

The tragedy has been brought about by local rivalries and jealousies, but the American role in it has scarcely been a monument to our diplomacy. And the most unfortunate aspect of American policy is the evidence it offers of our cavalier indifference to our friends.

Wall St. Journal Senatorial 'Courtesy' July 1

The sex scandals have had the effect of picking up the rock of Capitol Hill, and giving the public a glimpse of what scurries underneath. The problem is not so much sex as it is the atmosphere of arrogant pettiness—the sheer effrontery of keeping a mistress on the public payroll, of voting yourself expense allowances on top of expense allowances and so on.

Such arrogance is so much a way of life on Capitol Hill that it takes a sex scandal to get anyone to stop and notice. But by cheapening life on the Hill, the humdrum abuses provide the soil in which the flagrant ones grow. As an example of the normal workaday pettiness so completely tolerated in the Congress, it is worth considering the little vendetta Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island is running against Dr. Ronald S. Berman, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Senator Pell has long had his own pet theory on how the endowment should dispense its funds, something about handing them out to state councils that would pass along \$500 so a lumberjack could do some history. Under Dr. Berman's tenure, the endowment has instead used its funds for things like helping produce "The Adams Chronicles," funding the traveling museum exhibits of Chinese art and Scythian gold and funding serious scholarship. On these grounds, Senator Pell has determined to block Dr. Berman's reappointment.

Understandably, the Senator has had a little trouble picking up allies. He got the administration to post-

pone renomination for two months while it studied his complaints; after acquainting itself with the humanities, the White House quickly sent Dr. Berman's name down after all. The endowment's council, including holdovers from the last Democratic administration, stands something like 20-1 in favor of the appointment. And aside from Senator Pell, no one on the relevant Senate committee, Labor and Public Welfare, has expressed any opposition.

But thanks to the prevailing ethic on Capitol Hill, it looks as if Senator Pell may have his way. The nomination was sent down last February 11, and as Congress gets ready for its July 4 recess no hearing on it has been scheduled. Senator Pell is claiming something quaintly called "Senatorial Courtesy," extended to Senators from a nominee's home state or, in this case, the chairman of a relevant subcommittee. The doctrine of Senatorial Courtesy, plainly put, is that if a Senator has a grudge against a nominee he can keep his name from coming to a vote.

Even by the standards implicit in this custom Senator Pell's pettiness is pretty ripe, but so far his committee colleagues are going along with it. Committee Chairman Harrison Williams of New Jersey has the power to give Dr. Berman his day before the committee, and to insure that his reappointment is voted up or down by the light of day. But that is not always the way things are done on Capitol Hill, as Congressman Wayne Hays can testify.

PEPPER.... and Salt

Vox Pop

The population slowdown shows
We're mending all our fences:
We've taken lots of good advice
And coming to our census.
—E. B. de Vito.

Overworked

Of course the truth hurts.
You would, too, if you were stretched so much.
—Franklin P. Jones.

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Early stag films: original cine.

—Stuart Citrin.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



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